

November 22, 1957

The Hon. Gov. Vernon W. Thomson
Executive Office, Capitol
Madison 2, Wisconsin

Dear Governor Thomson:

Having just returned after some months abroad, I was pleased to find the enclosed card. I hope it will be of some help against the appalling menace of highway accidents, and hasten to subscribe to the pledge. Recalling an earlier occasion on which you considered printed cards an unsound vehicle of popular sentiment (v.i.) I thought you would welcome a personal letter instead.

More seriously, may I again raise a question which was cursorily studied during your predecessor's administration, whether the State could not make a significant contribution to highway safety by requiring the fitting of seat belts in all ~~new~~ vehicles? As far as I know, the Motor Vehicle Department has made no recommendation to the Legislature on this subject, although medical authorities are quite unanimous in the opinion that fatalities would be considerably lessened by the use of belts. It is, of course, one thing to require belts as equipment, and another to accomplish their use. However, some agency has to take the lead, and the Ford Company's experiment last year seems to have petered out.

To turn to another topic, I was disappointed to learn that you had signed the Bill which killed off the Monona Terrace project. Not that I am personally more than lukewarm in favor of the project itself, but that the Bill was a disgraceful exhibition of unstatesmanlike conduct on the part of the Legislature, and that it does seem to thwart the expressed will of the community involved. However, I have not had the benefit of reading whatever comment you may have issued at the time of your signature -- if such a statement is conveniently available, I would be grateful for a copy.

Yours sincerely,


Joshua Lederberg